

ITEM: 18

SUBJECT: South Kern Industrial Center, LLC, for Operation of a Biosolids Storage and Composting Facility, Kern County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements*

BACKGROUND: South Kern Industrial Center, LLC, plans to construct and operate a 100-acre biosolids composting facility. The planned facility would be located in southwestern Kern County about 18 miles southwest of Bakersfield and 12 miles east of Taft, on South Lake Road. Planned input capacity is 1,800 tons of feedstock per day. The Kern County Board of Supervisors approved the project and certified an EIR for it in October of 2002.

The site where the facility would be built receives an average of about six inches of rain a year, and annual pan evaporation of over 100 inches. The underlying soils have a measured hydraulic conductivity ranging between 1.6×10^{-4} to 3.3×10^{-6} cm/sec. The site is within a 100-year flood zone. Surface water drainage is toward Buena Vista Lake. First encountered groundwater occurs in a perched zone at six to twelve feet below ground surface. It is quite poor, with a measured EC ranging between 8,600 and 22,000 micromhos/cm. A more regional aquifer is encountered at a depth of about 36 feet, and has an EC of around 2,800 micromhos/cm.

Measures incorporated into the design and required by the proposed waste discharge requirements include a five-foot berm around the facility to protect it from flooding and control drainage. Rainfall would be directed to a retention basin, where it would be stored for later use in the composting operation for moisture control of the material. The facility pad for incoming feedstock, the composting area, and finished product storage would consist of, in ascending order, native soil compacted to 95 %, a leachate recovery system, and either a minimum of four inches of asphalt (for the composting area), or eleven inches of concrete (for the high-traffic feedstock and storage areas). A composite-lined basin would retain truck wash water, leachate, condensate, and any storm water that contacts feedstock, compost, or finished materials. The proposed WDRs and the accompanying monitoring and reporting program requires quarterly and annual reporting of pad and pond liner integrity, and monitoring of groundwater. All water quality mitigation measures recognized by Kern County in its EIR have been incorporated into the proposed WDRs.

ISSUES:

The Discharger is in agreement with the proposed WDRs. Senator Dean Florez, the City of Taft, and one individual, however, have objected to the issuance of the WDRs. The objection regards locating a biosolids composting facility in Kern County to compost biosolids imported from

other counties. Many individuals have petitioned Kern County to reconsider its approval of the project. The Senator and the City of Taft have asked that the Regional Board hearing be moved closer to Kern County. No comments on the prohibitions, specifications, provisions, or monitoring requirements have been received.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the proposed waste discharge requirements

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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24 June 2005